

Iceberg B-09I Found in the Wilkesland Sea

October 22, 2015, Suitland, MD — On October 22nd, 2015, the U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC) discovered a new iceberg from satellite imagery. This particular iceberg calved from the previously named grounded iceberg B-09B which has been grounded near its present position since 1993. B-09I is located at 66°35' South, 142°23' East in the Wilkesland Sea and measures 14 nautical miles on its longest axis and 6 nautical miles on its widest axis. USNIC tracks all icebergs that are greater than 10 nautical miles in length.



Photo: October 21, 2015 SENTINEL-1 image showing B-09I separating from B-09B (used with permission from the European Space Agency).

Iceberg names are derived from the Antarctic quadrant in which they were originally sighted. The quadrants are divided counter-clockwise in the following manner:

- A = 0-90W (Bellingshausen/Weddell Sea)
- B = 90W-180 (Amundsen/Eastern Ross Sea)
- C = 180-90E (Western Ross Sea/Wilkesland)
- D = 90E-0 (Amery/Eastern Weddell Sea)

In February 1989, the USNIC documented the point of origin of a 76 nautical mile by 19 nautical mile iceberg that calved from the Ross Ice Shelf. It was the 9th iceberg tracked by the USNIC in quadrant B of Antarctica between 90W-180, and thus earned the name B-09. Over time, B-09 broke into several pieces and was labeled in accordance with the naming convention. Most pieces drifted westward around Antarctica toward the Weddell Sea, with the exception of B-09B, which drifted to the west approximately a thousand nautical miles before grounding in the Wilkesland Sea near the Mertz ice shelf in 1993. It is one of only five remaining pieces of the original iceberg measuring at least 10 nautical miles.

Information on Southern Hemisphere icebergs are posted to the website every Friday, with size, position, and remarks at http://www.natice.noaa.gov/pub/icebergs/Iceberg_Tabular.pdf.

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The National Ice Center is a tri-agency operational center represented by the United States Navy (Department of Defense), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Department of Commerce), and the United States Coast Guard (Department of Homeland Security). The National Ice Center mission is to provide the global to tactical scale ice and snow products, ice forecasting and other environmental intelligence services for the United States government.

For more information, please contact:

National Ice Center

Naval Ice Center

Command Duty Officer

Voice: (301) 943-6977

E-mail: nic.cdo@noaa.gov

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